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SUMMARY OF U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE EXHIBIT.

"Farm and Home" Meeting, Ames, Iowa, Jan. 30--Feb. 4, 1922.

To help bring about a better public understanding of live-stock problems, the United States Department of Agriculture has prepared an exhibit that is largely pictorial, and designed along popular lines. It includes 11 booths, a special feature with live animals, and numerous supplementary attractions. As a guide to visitors and to help them get the greatest benefit from the exhibit, the department has issued a brief summary of the display, as follows:

Power of Meat

The booth bearing this heading shows pictorially that meat is a food "for work, for thought, and for play or growth." It illustrates also the great diversity of appetizing and nutritious meat dishes. The important service which domestic animals render to man is apparent from the fact that they feed largely on pasture, hay, cereal by-products, and farm crops that man can not use directly, except to a very small extent.

Meat Problems

The 1921 corn crop amounts to more than 3,000,000,000 bushels, or about 28 bushels for every person in the United States. The enormous size of the crop has made the price to growers exceedingly low -- in many places under 30 cents a bushel. The best market for this corn is to feed it to live stock, thus concentrating it, saving freight, and preventing waste through storage. To make such a feeding program a success, the Department of Agriculture asks the public to increase its use of meat. Meat consumption per capita is now at the rate of 142 pounds annually, compared with about 155 pounds for the 5 years before the World War. If every person eats 1 pound and an ounce more of meat per month, meat consumption will go back practically to normal and will help prevent a great national loss.

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D. C., June 1, 1914.

Respectfully submitted,
The Department of Agriculture has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the Bureau of Plant Industry for their consideration. It is requested that you will keep the Bureau advised of any further developments in this matter.

Letter of May 1, 1914.

The Board of Agriculture has been particularly interested in the work of the Department of Agriculture in the past few years, and for this reason, it is requested that you will keep the Board advised of any further developments in this matter. The Board is particularly interested in the work of the Department of Agriculture in the past few years, and for this reason, it is requested that you will keep the Board advised of any further developments in this matter.

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To guide the public in buying meat economically the department presents, in this booth, price ratios which show how prices for different cuts of meat compare, pound for pound, with what producers get for live animals. Any person can make his own ratio for any day by dividing the butcher's price for a pound of any cut by the price of the corresponding live stock as given in the daily newspapers. By comparing ratios of the different cuts for different times a person can see where the spread is least and which dealers are selling closest to the prewar ratios. Considering that only from one-half to three-fourths of a live animal is edible product, there should naturally be a spread -- but not too much. In general, cheaper cuts show the narrowest ratios and appear to be selling more nearly on a prewar basis.

Sheep on the Farm

The profitable production of mutton and wool on farms is largely a matter of economical feeding and of handling sheep so that they may be kept thrifty and at the same time require a minimum of expense and labor. The system of raising sheep on temporary pastures is economical under intensive farm conditions. It increases the carrying capacity of the land and assists in maintaining health in the flock. The plan is shown by pictures and brief explanations.

Range Sheep Improvement

The booth bearing the title "Range Sheep Improvement" shows the department's work in developing and improving types of range sheep. The headquarters for this work are at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station, near Dubois, Idaho. The types used chiefly in seeking the ideal type of range sheep are the Rambouillet, Corriedale, and Columbia. The plan of breeding is presented and discussed briefly. An enlarged picture of the sheep experiment station near Dubois enables the observer to form an idea of the equipment and the nature of the country for which the sheep are adapted.

Live-stock Welfare

"Runts: Cause and Remedy" presents pictorially the results of the department's inquiry into this practical live-stock question. It shows that inferior breeding and poor feeding are the chief causes of runty live stock, and that weaning time is the critical time in a young animal's growth. Another panel tells how to combat contagious abortion when this disease enters a herd. Additional directions tell how to keep the disease out of healthy herds. What hog cholera costs the country both in hogs and in wasted feed is the topic of the third panel. The 30-million-dollar annual loss can be largely avoided through sanitation and the use of the preventive serum treatment.

Animal Health Safeguards

A large map of the world shows the names and locations of serious live-stock diseases that occur in other countries, but from which the United States is free. This freedom is due not to good fortune, but to organized effort. The purpose of the map is to show the public what the department, through its animal quarantine service, is doing to exclude foreign plagues. Farmers are urged to respect and support this service, which is conducted for their benefit. Every live-stock owner is asked to report promptly any strange disease, and especially any case that resembles foot-and-mouth disease.

Story of Farm Power

The efficient and economical utilization of power for drawbar work on the farm is a vital problem at the present time. To help farmers see the value of tractor and horse power, the exhibit relating to the problem gives facts and figures obtained on a large number of Corn Belt farms. Graphic illustrations show that on these farms -- all of which use tractors -- about 70 per cent of the farm power was supplied by horses, the remainder being furnished by tractors.

Comparisons of power costs, computed in September, 1921, prices of fuel, oil, and feed (other costs as of 1920) for different operations furnish the basis for many practical calculations.

Better Sires -- Better Stock

Live stock well bred and well cared for has greater earning capacity than inferior animals. The national campaign for better sires and better stock directs attention to that fact and points out that good purebred sires will quickly improve the quality and productiveness of the average herd. It shows pictorially that some of the cattle bred centuries ago were of better quality than scrub cattle in the United States to-day, and that without definite breeding plans no farmer can expect to improve his animals. By contrast, another picture illustrates the improvement possible even in the first cross when a purebred bull is used. Other portions of the booth show the progress which the campaign has made.

In and Out of the Forest

The National forests contain great areas of grazing land suitable for beef cattle and sheep. To demonstrate how the land is used under the department's permit system, this booth shows (1) live stock entering the forest, (2) typical forest grazing lands, and (3) the stock emerging from the forest in well-developed condition and ready for market. When not overgrazed, forest land is benefited by having live stock on it. One of the chief advantages is the reduced fire hazard. Grazing animals keep the forests comparatively free from long grass and small vegetation that otherwise would aid a forest fire to spread.

Accredited Beef-Cattle Herds

A healthy herd of well-bred cattle -- that is the desire of every progressive cattleman, and the Department of Agriculture is helping him to fulfill it. The accredited-herd plan explained in this booth is a system of test-

ing cattle for tuberculosis, so that disease can be eradicated at minimum cost to the owners through a system of indemnity for cattle found to be tuberculous. Besides, the cattleman whose stock passes the required number of tests receives a certificate that enables him to ship animals interstate without additional testing. The exhibit shows the losses which the industry suffers because of tuberculosis. The obvious remedy is to test the cattle, remove the diseased ones, and ultimately have a healthy, accredited herd.

Purebred Live Stock Figures

What proportion of the Nation's cattle, sheep, and hogs are purebred? Where are the purebreds located? What breeds are kept in greatest numbers? Maps, charts, and figures show, almost at a glance, the answers to these questions. The number and distribution of purebred live stock mean a great deal to everyone interested in choosing new breeds, in improving established herds, or in buying and selling purebred stock. The maps are based on the latest United States census, which is the first to enumerate purebred animals.

Corn-Belt Beef Production--Special Feature with Live Steers

This exhibit shows the quantity of feed required to fatten a steer in the Corn Belt and brings out the advisability of feeding roughages and grain on the farm rather than selling the crops direct. The first steer is an average feeder, typical of thousands fed every year. Near by is the feed used by such a steer during the period of fattening, and finally we have the finished animal ready for market. An accompanying financial statement shows the expenses involved in fattening steers in the Corn Belt.

Farmers' Bulletins and Others

The Department of Agriculture has issued more than 50 bulletins dealing with practical live-stock topics. These are all for free distribution, and

copies may be consulted at the bulletin stand. While only a limited number can be supplied during the show, persons interested in any bulletins may obtain them by a post-card request addressed to the Division of Publications, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Besides the bulletins for free distribution, the department publishes in small editions the results of various experiments and investigations. Many of these deal with the breeding, feeding, and management of live stock. Such semi-technical bulletins are listed in the back of many Farmers' Bulletins, together with the price at which they are obtainable. The amount ranges from 5 to 15 cents, being based on the cost of printing. To obtain such publications order them, with remittance, from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Additional Exhibit Features

The trend of live stock compared with human population and other topics of interest are additional features of the exhibit. In most cases printed matter relating to the activities is available. To get it, visitors are invited to give an attendant their names, addresses, and the kind of information desired. The message that can be told in exhibit form is necessarily brief, but department representatives in charge of the booths will cheerfully answer questions.

Get the benefit of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's investigations and experiments. Let it help you with your problems.

